

# EUGENE WEEKLY

## Fighting Ecocide

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IN BRAZIL — AND  
ACROSS THE WORLD  
— COMES TO EUGENE

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MOBILE CRISIS

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DATABASE

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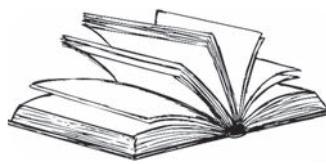
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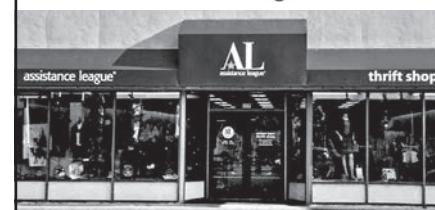
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# letters

## NOT A NOTHINGBURGER

How disappointing the position you took on the three point shootout between Sabrina Ionescu and Steph Curry (Slant 2/22). Curry won with a score of 29, which would have won the regular three-point shootout as back-to-back champion Damian Lillard won with a total of 26. Ionescu matched the best number any NBA player not named Curry put up. How can you call that a nothingburger? Both players are classy human beings, they inspire boys, girls, men and women across all spectrums of society. To be honest I am not a huge fan of pro basketball, but I enjoyed the shoot-out immensely.

Will "Boomer" McNaught  
Eugene

## STRIP SEARCH QUESTIONS

I am a criminology major at Portland State University responding to the article about Lane County's strip searching of juveniles. I found this article to be a concerning example of sexual misconduct by correctional officers that is a symptom of an institution allowing this misconduct to happen through discretion and unsatisfactory preventative measures.

I'm wondering how this issue could have gone on for so long undetected, even though the number of reported incidents has been "growing"?

Strip searching is illegal unless there's reasonable suspicion. However, if we look at other crimes occurring in the criminal justice system, such as police brutality, reasonable suspicion is a loose guideline that involves a lot of discretion. Although the law is meant to rely on concrete facts, the issues taking place in the detention facility were based on finding banned items in detainees' cells. Without scanners, which should absolutely be mandatory in carceral systems, there's no way to prove contraband was being brought in under a detainee's clothes.

The article mentions that workers are only now receiving training on the issue, and will then be able to make a decision. Why have they not been trained on this? How are metal detectors and other body scanners not utilized? It's imperative that these are implemented and that the Lane County's youth detention center is transparent with their strip search policies. This is an issue of sexual misconduct that is not just being perpetrated by the employees but by the institution itself.

Olivia Scott  
Portland

## EUGENE EMS HOSTAGE SITUATION

For well over a century, there has been the Lane County Fairgrounds, despite decades of changes. However, a change to a ballpark will forever cancel out what has been a staple in Eugene.

For a ball club to coerce voters into

believing they would move to another city if they don't get their way is nothing more than a hostage situation. To the north of Eugene, between Hwy 99 and River Road, lies land that currently is host to a state institution and a golf course that should be a site more than large enough to host a ball park the Ems envision. Given the fact that 13th and 18th avenues are quite close to downtown and very busy thoroughfares, which would cause a worse case scenario. Construction of the stadium would take about a year. Where would the July 2024 Lane County Fair be held during this time? What about the truck and heavy equipment traffic on 13th and 18th avenues?

Highway 99 N and River Road would present a much better traffic flow and noise situation than close neighborhoods surrounding a stadium. The city council may have given the go-ahead to place this before the voters for a bond measure, but is this really where a ball park should be?

Steve Coady  
Eugene

## PEACEHEALTH STRIKE

I worked at PeaceHealth Home Health and know firsthand the professional care and human caring hospice and home care nurses give. They don't want to strike — not in their nature — but have no choice. According to EW's Emerson Brady, hospital nurses got an 8 percent raise in 2023, but hospice and homecare nurses haven't had a raise since 2022 and the PeaceHealth CEO got a \$2 million raise in 2021.

This is the same corporation that closed Eugene's only hospital with no plan or forethought for our future. I'm outraged that PeaceHealth executives can sit in Bellingham, Washington, far removed, with million dollar bonuses and any show of respect for Eugene and its needs.

Jay Moseley  
Eugene

## MEDIOCΡITY

Thirty years since resigning from the Forest Service because of felonious leadership, I have struggled and failed to find one agency or political leader in Oregon to work with to protect Oregon's quality of life.

After a decade of attempting to sway Sen. Jeff Merkley and Sen. Ron Wyden away from corporate timber interests, they are now sponsoring a \$30 billion welfare logging bill as the timber industries touted "cure all" for wildfire which does nothing to protect communities nor lives.

Since 2018 I have requested ODOT implement simple low cost safety measures for Highway 58 like speed limits signs on dangerous curves and elimination of passing zones within "blind spots," but ODOT refuses to address any of these hazards. However, ODOT has

plans for a new passing lane just west of Oakridge at a cost of millions dollars.

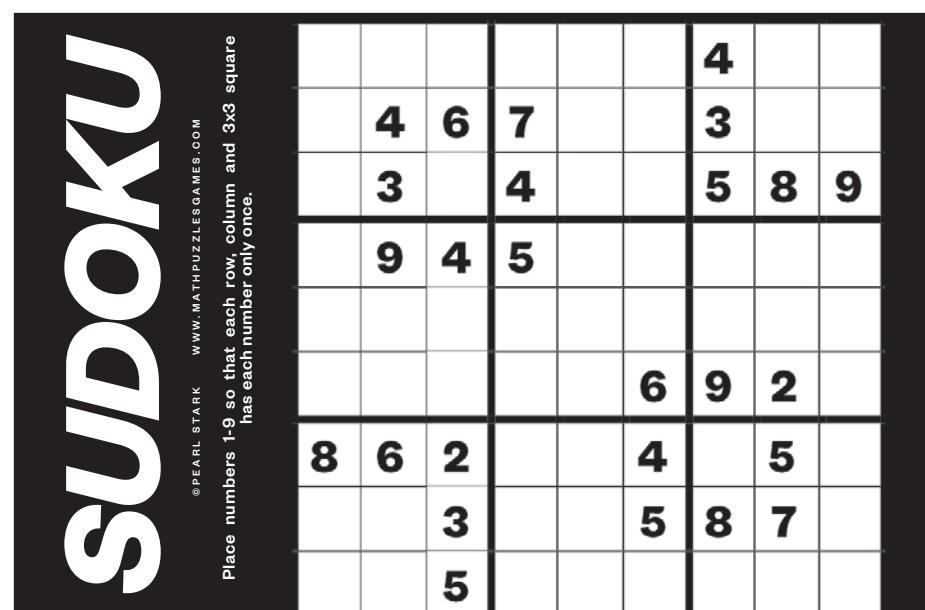
Since 2018 citizens have requested a stricter air emission permit for Lane County's largest polluter, International Paper, with emissions of up to several tons per day. In 2023 Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) granted a new permit to poison Springfield residents over the next decade without reducing emissions by a single pound.

The list of quality of life issues I have attempted to work with agencies and Oregon politicians is too extensive to de-

scribe here, but entities include Oregon DEQ, U.S. Forest Service, Lane County Parks, city of Springfield and state Sen. Floyd Prozanski. All to no avail.

It appears Oregon's political sycophants and bureaucratic class under 30 years of Democratic governors, legislators and Congressmen only serve the most powerful at taxpayers expense in the race towards mediocrity and extinction.

Shannon Wilson  
Eugene



## Jonesin' Crossword

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### Across

- 1. Serene
- 5. Ride back to the hotel, perhaps
- 8. Astronomer Tycho —
- 13. Two-tone snack
- 14. 1993 Texas standoff city
- 15. "Star Wars" director
- 16. Mae or Jerry
- 17. Peas, to a peashooter
- 18. In the dark
- 19. Bean for baseball's Bryce?
- 22. Pass, as time
- 24. Travels by boat
- 25. "This could be the \_\_\_ ..."
- 27. "OSI" material
- 28. Family-friendly film ratings
- 31. Cabbage salad served at universities?
- 33. Actress Lucy
- 34. Stylized
- 35. Reno-to-Spokane dir.
- 36. "Knights of Cydonia" band
- 37. "La \_\_\_" (Debussy composition)
- 38. Just heated up?
- 42. "Gangnam Style" performer
- 43. Letter from Homer
- 44. Walk like a zombie
- 45. Some DVD players
- 47. "And Still \_\_\_" (Maya Angelou book)
- 48. Like home renovation shows that overdo the wood siding?
- 52. Video game character with his own Maker
- 53. Prefix with dextrous
- 54. Proton's place
- 58. Signing off on
- 59. Overwhelming victory
- 60. Donated
- 61. Talkative, slangily
- 62. \_\_\_-Tiki (Heyerdahl craft)
- 63. Shiraz location

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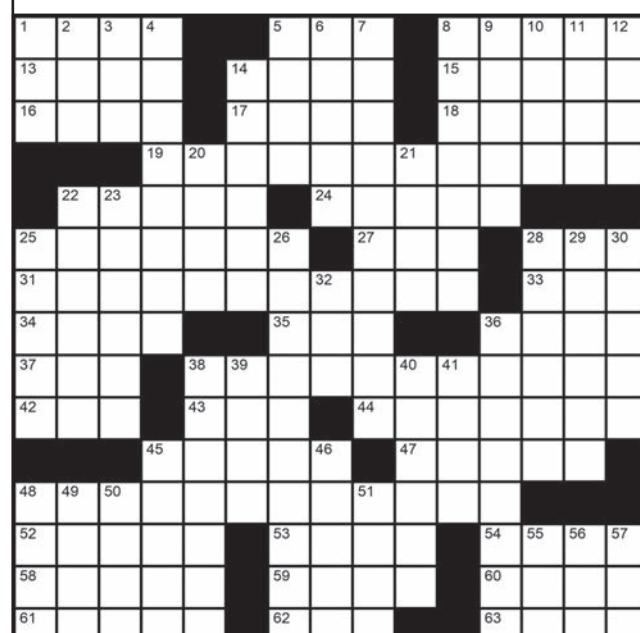
Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.

### "Full-Bodied"

--there's an extra part in the theme.

very short name in English

- 22. Mail units
- 23. Meager
- 25. Playful rascal
- 26. Home of the Boston Red Sox
- 28. Examines, as depths
- 29. Brazilian supermodel B. ndchen
- 30. Napped material
- 32. Pete Davidson's show, once
- 36. Mentor in "The Karate Kid"
- 38. Vocabulary coinage, e.g. 39. 10,900-foot European peak
- 40. "Try to detect it! It's not too late!" song
- 41. Publisher of Modern Maturity
- 45. They're earned on "Press Your Luck"
- 46. "Li'l Abner" creature that looks like a white blob with a mustache
- 48. Air impurifier
- 49. Maori dance popularized by some New Zealand rugby teams
- 50. Part of the eye around the pupil
- 51. Have \_\_\_ in the oven
- 55. Viscous goo
- 56. Eggs in labs
- 57. \_\_\_ Behaving Badly"



## CAMPAIN FINANCE REFORM

Please find Petition 9 (for Nov. 2024 Ballot) and help get signatures for the group Honest Elections Oregon. It includes contributions limits, certain prohibitions, requirements for transparency of donors, etc.

Looking at what we are facing with the timber industry, this is the only way to curb their influence on our laws and regulations and taxation. Look up the webpage for Sierra Pacific, and you will see why other mills are closing. They will not be able to compete with this giant who bought Seneca. Sierra Pacific (Archie Emmerson and family) own 2.33 million acres of land in California, Oregon and Washington. Emmerson's "worth" is \$5.3 billion. They are planning a huge mill expansion here in Eugene.

There is surely a connection with the

fact that we have no campaign finance laws in Oregon, and the ways in which large wealthy corporations can do business in Oregon.

Sue Craig  
Eugene

## UNHOUSED TRASH COMPLAINT

It's too bad some people, especially families with kids, are homeless through no fault of their own. Why do most people seem "uncaring" or just plain "disgusted" with the homeless? It wouldn't have anything to do with what looks like a trash dump where they are or where they've been, would it? (Sarcasm.)

Regardless, if you're down and out or not, whatever happened to the little thing we all call personal responsibility?

Greg Anson Sr.  
Eugene

## PRO-JOE

I'm responding to Stephen Slater's letter in this week's issue (2/22).

By no means am I happy with everything President Joe Biden has done so far during his term. This is particularly true in how I feel towards the Biden administration's actions during the tragic events that have unfolded in the conflict with Hamas.

However, in my opinion there is not one president in recent history that wouldn't have acted in a similar fashion.

I would like to challenge anyone who diminishes how overall effective Biden has been to take a look at the full legislative accomplishments that Biden had helped push through so far during his term.

This coming election is no normal election, and these are not normal times. We are way past voting your conscience at this point in our history. For

anyone to conflate Biden and Donald Trump is beyond dangerous rhetoric in its implications.

If Trump attains re-election, the world wide psychological trauma will dwarf what happened in 2016, and the overall consequences will be beyond most people's imagining. There is not one of us that can afford to be complicit in allowing this to happen.

The bottom line is this: Until we change the current capitalistic economic system, it won't matter a whit who is president. Not voting again for a knowledgeable, accomplished and competent president and instead for Sen. Jeff Merkley, or anyone else, will not accomplish anything until we change the system itself.

Neil S. Burton  
Eugene

## Local and Vocal

VIEWPOINT BY DYLAN CURRAN

# In Defense of Decriminalization

SUPPORT FOR OREGON'S MEASURE 110 BY AN EMT AND EX-JUNKIE

I spent years of my life addicted to heroin. While that time is thankfully behind me, I now work as a medic for a local crisis intervention team, and I work with folks balancing recovery and addiction on a daily basis. My clients come from all walks of life, and many use drugs that will be made illegal if House Bill 4002 passes in the next few weeks.

This will mean an end to the brief period in which Oregon recognized addiction as a social and medical issue, not a criminal one.

I was lucky enough to avoid arrest and incarceration during the years in which my life was built around maintaining a high. And when I finally understood that I had to come down, I was lucky again: I got to recover in a safe place, supported by family and a medical system which provided medicine and therapy to help me return to what most would consider a normal life.

This would never have happened if I had been subjected to the deprivations of our courts: my liberty taken away, brutalized and humiliated by an unsympathetic legal system, subjected to the horror of prison, and denied access to employment and housing thanks to being branded a convict.

Had I been incarcerated for possessing a small amount of a controlled substance, I would never have had the opportunity to serve the community in the way I do. Addiction is not a death sentence, but time served easily could be.

I got lucky in many ways: in not being charged with the crime of addiction (read: possession), in avoiding preventable diseases thanks to needle-exchange programs, in receiving medical treatment to help me recover. In short, I was lucky just to have a chance to get my life back.

Decriminalization offers every other drug-addicted person in Oregon the same chance to rebuild their life, or at least live a life free of legal harassment. And now it's in danger of being taken away from us.

Lawmakers are right now in the process of undermining the revolutionary Measure 110 that Oregon passed in 2020, which decriminalized possession of small amounts of drugs and allocated funding for recovery. In this act the majority of Oregonians stated their intent to help those addicted to hard drugs and the acknowledgement that something in the long-standing "war on drugs" was failing

No one chooses to openly show their addiction in order to hurt or offend fellow Oregonians.

at a basic level. This was a courageous act of compassion we now stand to lose without even a public vote.

Chief complaints driving re-criminalization are these: that Measure 110 has increased the rate of overdose in Oregon, and that criminal penalties are necessary to prevent public drug use.

To the first charge: There is simply no meaningful evidence that Measure 110 has increased the rate of overdoses in Oregon. Not when one considers the recent arrival of fentanyl to Oregon, the crippling effects of the

pandemic, or the fact that overdoses have been on the rise since long before 2020.

If Oregon wants to prevent overdoses, we need to put more funding into treatment programs, and allow those programs more time to take effect. Addiction is complex, tied in with social and economic oppression as much as with brain chemistry; recovery is the work of a lifetime. Why would we expect an entire state to turn this crisis around barely a year after Measure 110 funding has become available?

To the second charge, consider: Most of the people using drugs in public spaces are those with no better alternatives. No one chooses to openly show their addiction in order to hurt or offend fellow Oregonians.

Criminalizing drug use is another in a long series of laws meant to criminalize poverty and homelessness. If Oregon doesn't want to witness addiction and overdose in public spaces, then we first need to address poverty and homelessness. A misdemeanor charge will not cure addiction any more than a badge and gun will reverse an overdose. What we need is to support people in recovery with shelters and low-barrier housing. And a jail cell doesn't count.

The "war on drugs" has failed, because it was never a war on drugs; it has always been a war on people.

We are the first state in the nation to fully recognize this and attempt a new approach on the level of Measure 110. If we really care about recovery, our tools will be housing and medicine. The vote is out of our hands but not beyond the reach of our voices: please, by any means possible, urge your lawmakers to protect decriminalization.

Dylan Curran is a former heroin addict who works as a medic for a local crisis intervention team. He has previously worked as a wildland firefighter and holds a philosophy degree from University of Oregon.

# Stretching to Cover the Gaps

LANE COUNTY HOPES TO LAUNCH A MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM SIMILAR TO CAHOOTS TO SERVE ALL MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CALLS ACROSS THE ENTIRE COUNTY

*By Bentley Freeman*

Lane County hopes to launch a 24-hour mobile crisis response team on April 1 that will deliver mental health services from the coast to the foot of the Cascades — if the county can find enough qualified people to make it work.

The new Mobile Crisis Response Team, based on a nationwide model similar to Eugene's CAHOOTS program, is part of a national movement toward sending trained workers to help people in mental health crises, rather than calling in police.

Too often, county officials say, police without adequate mental health training have by default become the front-line response for people experiencing a mental health crisis, a situation county officials call "unacceptable and unsafe."

Pauline Gichohi, Lane County's Behavioral Health Division manager, says trained crisis teams can diffuse situations, calling in police only when necessary.

"We don't want the first response to be law enforcement," Gichohi says.

County officials want to locate teams so that they're within an hour's drive to every person in the county. Gichohi says teams will meet people where they are located, providing stabilizing, trauma-informed care and helping them connect with local care providers. The teams can also deliver harm-reduction supplies, such as Narcan, which can help revive people experiencing an opioid overdose.

"We want to be thoughtful about how we provide this service to the entire residency of the county," Gichohi says.

For the past five years, a pilot program has operated in the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority, which covers Florence and the surrounding areas.

Just as it currently operates, the county confirms that when needed, the response will "escalate" to police and EMS as needed.

The expansion is driven by state law and the Oregon Health Authority, which now requires mental crisis response teams for all community mental health programs. Lane County expects the team to cost \$5 million a year, with another \$825,000 in startup costs, according to county documents. County officials say the program will initially be paid for by state funds, but the county will eventually cover bills through health insurance providers, the Oregon Health Plan and Medicaid.

Gichohi says the county is now struggling to find enough qualified practitioners.

The county needs 40 total staff members to field a full force, including supervisors, peer support specialists and front-line mental crisis practitioners. County spokesman Jason Davis said a "surprising number" of people are seeking the jobs, but there are not yet enough qualified applicants to fill the positions.

"Realistically, for us to be 24/7, we are looking at six months to a year, and that is if we can find the people to hire," Gichohi says. "We still have a long way to go. We're not quite there yet."

One major question also remains: If people need a place to go for stabilization, where will the mental crisis teams take them?

Lane County faces a serious shortage of crisis beds. Some officials have said the Lane County jail now serves as the de facto mental health crisis center. PeaceHealth made matters worse when it closed its University District Hospital emergency room, where police often took people for mental health holds.

Gichohi says the long-range plan is for the county to build a 42-bed stabilization center, a long-delayed \$30 million project that currently has no set date to break ground, pending a funding solution. Davis says the proposed center faces a \$5 million-a-year funding gap even before it opens. Pending filling of that \$5 million-a-year gap, no services will be offered at the proposed stabilization center.

According to Davis, the county will embark on a fund-raising campaign March 11, sourcing donations from people across Lane County. He says that through community-based micro fundraising, the county and the state will both see that the community is behind this plan, before turning to larger organizations for donations.

"And since we're only about halfway funded, [hopefully] half of it will be organically generated within the community," Davis says.

*This story was developed in partnership with the Local Reporting Initiative of the Catalyst Journalism Project at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. To learn more, visit CatalystJournalism.uoregon.edu.*

## slant

• When *Eugene Weekly* first started to discover the extent of the embezzlement, one of the first of the many awesome businesses that offered to do a fundraiser was Old Nick's Pub. Now we see **Old Nick's is doing a fundraiser of its own**. Emily Chappell posts on the pub's social media that the owner of the building is selling it and she's hoping to buy the Whit area building — whatever the outcome, she says Old Nick's is not going away. Go to GoFund.me/0206b153 to pitch in. Speaking of fundraisers — thank you, WOW Hall and 255 Madison, for your recent fundraisers; it's funds from your efforts and our readers that let us hire reporter Emerson Brady back this week!

• **Municipal bonds — hardly a scintillating topic.** But what the city of Eugene decides to issue bonds for can dictate the future of Eugene for decades — think recreational facilities for the community's youth, parks and roads. Why then is Eugene offering to use its bonding power to build a professional team a stadium when so many other needs are unmet? With a little lead-

ership and vision, the City Council might imagine an indoor facility and turf field that our kids could play in and on year 'round. But maybe that is asking too much. After all, corporations are good at wrangling subsidies. And kids, not so much.

• **Speaking of kids, be sure to follow our ongoing coverage of 4J Superintendent Andy Dey online.** The school district finally coughed up a copy of his contract and salary after weeks of the *Weekly* asking and filing public records requests. The 4J school board meets again Wednesday, Feb. 28, after we go to press — and must decide about Dey quickly. The contract sets a March 15 deadline for the board to say whether it will extend Dey's contract for another year. If they miss the deadline, he gets an automatic extension through the 2025-26 school year. By the way, 4J, even the University of Oregon makes contracts available easily — if you ever want to see the millions Duck football coach Dan Lanning makes, or that he gets a Eugene Country Club membership and two free cars, just head on over to PublicRecords.uoregon.edu and check out the document library.

• **The juvenile mental health crisis** was the topic for the City Club of Eugene Feb. 23, and it included the terrifying numbers on juvenile

suicides. We wonder if this country — even this county — is doing what it should. For instance, we have a shortage of mental health practitioners. What about scholarships and other assistance to push up the numbers? Maybe we don't need to be spending so much on the border wall and the military and should spend it instead on our kids' health and future? This Friday at noon at the Inn at the Fifth, check out the City Club Forum on **"Campaign Financing in Oregon: The Dangers of Dark Money."**

• **Any fellow news geeks watching the suit over the proposed Kroger purchases of Albertsons?** Oregon joined the Federal Trade Commission and several other states this week in a lawsuit seeking to block the sale. Lots of concerns there over the merger, from food prices to too many pharmacies owned by the same company. Albertsons operates Safeway. Kroger is the parent company of Fred Meyer, in case that name doesn't ring a bell. Sen. Ron Wyden spoke out in support of the FTC blocking the merger — and we know for a fact the senator is a Fred Meyer chicken fan. You know who supports the merger? The fruit loops of UFCW 555, the union with the wrong-headed and wildly unsuccessful campaign to recall pro-union state Rep. Paul Holvey.

# Diverse Business Directory Supports Local Work

SUPPORTING DIVERSE BUSINESSES IN LANE COUNTY HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

By Emma J Nelson

In 2020, Lane County created a Local Black-Owned Business Directory in response to “the racial awakening that was taking place worldwide,” says Shayna Higashi, the county’s equity program analyst.

In November 2023, Lane County updated the directory and debuted the Lane County Diverse Business Directory, which features 72 county businesses, adding more every month and serving as a one-stop shop for supporting local entrepreneurs.

The Diverse Business Directory builds and expands upon the concept that created the Black-owned business directory, Higashi says.

Businesses that were previously featured on the Local Black-Owned Business Directory have been asked to resubmit their businesses to the Diverse Business Directory, Higashi says, to continue giving business owners the choice of whether they are featured.

***We know that this dashboard isn't going to repair centuries of wealth disparities. We want organizations to be able to think about the ways that they can contribute to that evolution in ways that are going to be way more economically impactful than the directory itself.***

— LATIFFE AMADO, Lane County's equity manager

This choice to opt-in is partially due to “the heightened visibility and how this may make businesses susceptible to being targeted by specific groups,” Higashi says. It’s also to ensure that everyone who wants to participate can, says Devon Ashbridge, Lane County public information officer.

“We did not want to limit participation to just what we know about or what we’re able to discover through our channels,” Ashbridge says, “because we know we would miss businesses and miss folks that would want to participate.”

Business Name	Phone	Business Category	Website & Social Media	Identity
AIMS Mobile Nursing	(541) 505-7386	Medical & Naturopathy	✉️ 📩 🌐	●
Aloha Coastal Notary, LLC	(541) 901-1847	Personal Services	✉️ 📩 🌐	● ●
Aloha Heart Energy Art, LLC	(808) 640-5673	Personal Services	✉️ 📩	●
Arcane Panda	(541) 600-4049	Personal Services	✉️ 📩 🌐	● ● ● ●
Artistic Outlet Media	(541) 543-3030	Photography	✉️ 📩 🌐	● ●
Austentatious	(541) 999-8922	Arts & Crafts	✉️ 📩 🌐	●
Avocado Doulas	(541) 510-4631	Medical & Naturopathy	✉️ 📩 🌐	● ●
B's Bites	(541) 913-2973	Food & Beverage	✉️ 📩 🌐	●
Bao Bao House	(785) 304-7559	Food & Beverage	✉️ 📩	●

The directory now features 10 diverse identities, and business owners can select multiple options based on how they self-identify. The identities include Asian-owned, Black-owned, Indigenous-owned, Latino/a/e/x-owned, LGBTQIA2S-owned, Pacific Islander-owned, person with disability-owned, veteran-owned, women-owned and other.

“There’s an ‘other’ category that some people can also select, and so we also recognize that maybe there’s other things we didn’t consider,” Higashi says. “We’re also using that as a catch-all for now to see if there’s other identities that should be considered in the future to expand upon.”

There has been no indication that anyone has misused the self-submitting system by entering businesses that are not theirs, Ashbridge says, but the program relies on people using the directory respectfully.

“I think the tricky part for us, again, goes back to how dare we judge how people identify. That can be a very

difficult position to be in,” Ashbridge says. “But so far what we’ve experienced is folks embracing the directory.”

Higashi says she hopes that Lane County residents use the directory to support diverse businesses during celebratory months, such as prioritizing support for Black-owned businesses in February and women-owned businesses in March.

“We know that this dashboard isn’t going to repair centuries of wealth disparities,” says Latiffe Amado, Lane County’s equity manager. “We want organizations to be able to think about the ways that they can contribute to that evolution in ways that are going to be way more economically impactful than the directory itself.”

New submissions are added to the database on the first of every month. The Diverse Business Directory features 21 Eugene-based, Black-owned businesses as of press time.

*Visit LaneCountyOR.gov/DBD to view the database.*

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# 'Cultivating Community' and Environmental Law

ONE OF THE LARGEST AND OLDEST PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCES IN THE WORLD IS BEING HELD IN EUGENE

*By Emerson Brady*

**S**ince 1983, PIELC has taken over the University of Oregon Law school for three days full of workshops, panels and discussions about climate justice and advocacy.

This weekend from March 1 to 3, thousands of environmental activists, attorneys, students and scientists from around the world will again unite at the University of Oregon School of Law for one of the world's largest and oldest environmental conferences: Public Interest Environmental Law Conference.

The conference will feature over 125 panels and workshops with a wide range of environmental issues from state and corporate oppression of earth defenders to policy issues in West Coast wolf recovery and combatting oil drilling in the Arctic.

Environmental group Oregon Wild is leading a number of panels, including one on potential changes in the Northwest Forest Plan and what it means for Oregon's forests. The panel will go over the amendment proposal released by the U.S. Forest Service at the end of 2023.

"This law conference is a really important place for getting together with other organizations and celebrating the legal and policy avenues we have for doing environmental advocacy," says Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild senior conservation advocate.

In addition to the variety of workshops and panels, attendees can also expect to hear from three keynote speakers with a wide-range of environmental law backgrounds.

Dr. Alaí Reyes-Santo — the director of PNW Just Futures Institute for Racial and Climate Justice and director of community engagement for the new Climate Solutions Center at the University of Oregon — will kick off the conference Friday, March 1. Reyes-Santos will be followed by Dune Lankard, founder of the Eyak Preservation Council and one of *TIME* magazine's top 50 heroes for the planet, on Saturday, March 2. The weekend will close out with a speech from Jeremy Orr, the director of Litigation and Advocacy Partnerships at the nonprofit environmental law organization, EarthJustice, Sunday, March 3. EarthJustice is a nonprofit environmental law organization, working at the federal, state and local level

with 15 offices and 200 attorneys across the country.

Orr says he will focus his speech primarily on the democratization of water. "The decision-making around water should be inclusive of all people." Orr adds that he will discuss ways we can avoid mismanagement of water systems by the government and also transition away from making water a private entity.

He will discuss how water is an environmental justice issue and the "challenges and opportunities at the intersection of democracy and water governance."

This year's PIELC is centered around "Cultivating Community" and is organized by University of Oregon law students.

PIELC organizers Keiran Hadley, Charity Martinez, Morgan McWilliams and Nicolette Ohlsen write in an email to *Eugene Weekly*, "Through this theme, we hope to celebrate the achievements of diverse leaders in the environmental movement in addition to building the foundation of a more inclusive, community-based approach to the environmental challenges our world is facing."

*PIELC is free and open to the public, but a \$20 donation is recommended. To register PIELC go to [Pielc.org](http://Pielc.org).*

## RESILIENCY is Locally Produced ENERGY by Jim Neu

**What if** a homeowner or renter becomes the energy provider for their neighborhood? The recent transformation of renewable energy sourcing and battery storage can do that through microgrids and virtual power plants (VPPs).

Power producers and energy service utilities have historically provided service directly to customers, but that is changing. Many utility customers are installing low-cost solar photovoltaic panels and battery storage systems enabling them to power their homes then store and sell excess energy to neighbors. The public utility allows the consumer to manage energy usage and costs.

### Source of Income

As income for electricity customers, small scale local energy generation and storage will lower grid costs, increase reliability and stabilize pricing. Photovoltaic energy and battery storage builds a multidirectional flow of power between user and utility.

Six percent of single family homes nationally have installed rooftop solar generating 37 million megawatt hours (MMWh) per year powering 3-4 million homes.

Federal Inflation Reduction Act incentives with solar investment tax credits have increased solar adoption by 8% annually. At this rate, by 2028 nearly 7 million properties will be solar-powered generating 14 gigawatts; enough to power 10 million homes and create expanded microgrids and VPPs.

### Microgrids Help Keep Power Prices Stable

According to the Oregon Public Utilities Commission, a microgrid is defined as "a small scale electric grid that operates in conjunction with a utility's overall grid through a network of onsite generation, energy storage, and integrated controls. Under normal conditions it is connected to the main grid. If there is an outage or disturbance in the main grid, microgrid resources provide stable support by isolating and operating as an independent island."

Microgrids can reduce the need for a local utility to buy expensive power during times of market variability by dispatching battery stored power to the regional grid. In March 2023, EWEB's budgeted power cost of \$63 per MWh exceeded \$120 per MWh 17 times and twice topped \$140 per MWh, resulting in EWEB and its customers paying 16% more for power.

### What is a VPP?

Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) are similar to microgrids in that they are "a collection of small scale energy resources aggregated and coordinated with grid operations to provide the same reliability and economic value as traditional power plants" according to the Rocky Mountain Institute. VPPs include hundreds or thousands of households and businesses that provide power via their thermostats, electric vehicles, appliances, battery storage systems, and solar arrays that support the grid.

### Be an Energy Provider

A report on the future of VPPs from the Department of Energy (DOE) says VPPs could generate 80-160 Gigawatts of power annually, supply up to 20% of energy needs during peak demand times in 2030, and cost 40-60% less than alternatives such as methane gas. The consumer becomes an energy provider.

A rooftop solar and battery storage household can sell excess energy back to their utility, which pays the consumer a fee for the utility's right to distribute energy. Currently, EWEB sells power to the customer

at \$.09 per KWh and buys back customer generated power at \$.03 per KWh. EWEB uses monthly net metering where the utility squares with the customer on a monthly basis which benefits the utility. Annual net metering benefits the customer by a true-up every March; six months of high solar gain production from April to October compensates for low solar gain in other months.

Rooftop and Community Solar with battery storage provides lower costs by maintaining a reliable energy source that is less affected by peak demand or shutdowns during natural events such as wind, ice storms or wildfire.

The inexpensive cost to produce solar electricity and shorter distances to transport power make it cost-effective for those with access to VPPs and microgrids. A network of local distributed energy providers and battery storage back-up can ease peak load demand by off-setting utility energy.

### Emergency Hubs During Disasters

Another significant benefit of local distributed energy sourcing through solar and battery storage is the provision of emergency power in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) event.

The Eugene Airport is the perfect location for a renewable energy emergency hub functioning as central command for incoming shipments of supplies and outgoing medical needs if local hospitals are compromised. This facility would enhance community-wide resiliency during power outages and natural disasters. An established example is the Redwood Coast Airport located near Arcata CA., which operates a microgrid providing resilient emergency backup power for the airport and adjacent Coast Guard Air Station.

In conclusion, locally produced renewable energy from residential and commercial customers is the future of energy utilities.

*Jim Neu is a volunteer with 350Eugene who drives an electric car powered by a photovoltaic solar and battery storage home energy system.*

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# SACRED LANDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

**Pro bono legal work in Brazil strives to save Indigenous lands** **BY ELIZA ARONSON**

**P**ro bono *publico* is Latin for “in the public interest,” and refers to free work done by lawyers or other professionals to provide services to people or organizations that otherwise can’t afford it. And since many people can’t afford lawyers, and since habitats and animals can’t advocate for themselves, without these services, nothing changes for those without access to power. Pro bono work is crucial in that it can make concrete changes, from laws and policies to constitutions, for the public good.

Before 2015, pro bono work wasn’t legal in Brazil. The Brazilian Federal Constitution states that the government should provide free legal aid for Brazilians and foreign persons living in the country, but the government can’t support everyone needing aid, and if nongovernmental attorneys could not work pro bono, then marginalized people and communities and environments would — and still do — get passed by without professionals advocating for them.

From March 1 to 3, pro bono Brazilian and Indigenous attorneys will be among the presenters at the Public Interest Environmental Conference (PIELC) at the University of Oregon discussing the work being done in their communities to protect sacred lands and defend human rights.

**A**ccording to a study published by *Nature* last April, deforestation in Indigenous territories in the Amazon has increased by 129 percent since 2013. *Nature* states that about 700,000 Indigenous people live in the Indigenous territories. Over half of these territories are within the Amazon and cover over 386,102 square miles of rainforest, which are crucial

for climate regulation, carbon storage and biodiversity protection.

“All Indigenous land, which is a large chunk of the Brazilian Amazon, are the best-preserved habitats in the entirety of South America. The relationship to the land is just different than that of others,” says Prof. Lucas Silva, who is the primary investigator at the Soil-Plant-Atmosphere Lab at the University of Oregon. “They provide an example of how conservation can be done.”

This makes Brazil’s deforestation both a social and an environmental justice issue. If land rights could be

goes towards the other countries in South America. The deforestation in Brazil could affect the regional hydrological cycle.”

So securing land rights in Indigenous territories in the Amazon also helps protect habitats and livelihoods in neighboring areas. But you need lawyers — who are often expensive — to read through all the boring, confusing and convoluted paperwork to secure land rights.

With the help of Marcos Fuchs, founder and executive director of the Instituto Pro Bono, pro bono work was finally included in the new Brazilian Bar Association

**Instead of prosecuting or fining companies that usually have the financial means to budget for these situations in which they incur such fines, making ecocide a crime would allow for criminal prosecution of individuals in charge of decisions responsible for environmental destruction.**

ensured for the Indigenous people who live in the rainforest, the territories could decrease deforestation by 66 percent, protecting both the critical habitat and the home of these peoples. And the effects of deforestation don’t end where the deforestation ends.

“The more you cut down the forest, the less transpiration you have to the atmosphere. And then the less rainfall you have for the whole region,” Silva says. “The Brazilian Amazon, in particular, has a big responsibility with the rest of the region with a lot of the moisture that

Code of Ethics in 2015. The Instituto Pro Bono, which was created in 2001, was the first law firm in Brazil that had the capability and mission to serve vulnerable populations and civil society organizations — free of charge — to combat inequality in access to justice.

To put it in perspective, the American Bar Association says that practicing lawyers should aim for 50 hours of pro bono legal work per year, and almost every U.S. state has ethical rules that encourage lawyers to give pro bono services.

**N**adia de Matos Barros is the deputy director at the Instituto Pro Bono and is one of a few members of Instituto Pro Bono who will present at PIELC. On Friday she will be translating a panel of Indigenous lawyers working to protect the Amazon, and on Saturday she will be leading a workshop titled “Moving through Ecologies of the Global South.” She is one of more than 40 visitors that the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) is bringing to Eugene for its annual meeting in the days before PIELC.

Barros has been working at the Instituto Pro Bono since she was in law school at the University of São Paulo.

“What has most impacted me doing this work is challenging the relationship between lawyers and pro bono clients to a more empathetic one – engaging lawyers, who have a very technical education in Brazil, with social issues, and approaching beneficiaries of our projects as protagonists,” Barros says.

Together with the first-ever Indigenous lawyer in Brazil, Paulo Celso de Oliveira, Barros created the National Indigenous Lawyers Network, which opened up a new field of advocacy in Brazil, she tells *Eugene Weekly*. Celso, who will also be attending PIELC, is from the Pankararu Indigenous people in Pernambuco, northeastern Brazil, and is a partner at Advocacy for Human Rights and a board member at the Instituto Pro Bono. He came to Eugene in 1996 for an ELAW fellowship and now is a mentor to Indigenous attorneys across Brazil.

Strengthening the network and work of Indigenous lawyers could be pivotal in situations like the humanitarian crisis that has been unfolding in the Yanomami Indigenous Territory, where illegal gold miners have



Courtesy Maggie Keenan



brought disease and violence to Brazil’s largest Indigenous territory. Shortly after President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took office in January 2023, the Ministry of Health declared a medical emergency in the territory, but according to multiple reports, violence and widespread illness still plague the area.

Barros also was crucial in the creation of the National Pro Bono Climate Litigation Network and key in the global Stop Ecocide campaign in Brazil. This worldwide campaign raises awareness of ecocide, the widespread and long-term destruction of ecosystems, and through a growing network of lawyers, diplomats and people across numerous civil sectors, are working to make ecocide an international crime.

Instead of prosecuting or fining companies that usually have the financial means to budget for these situations in which they incur such fines, making ecocide a crime would allow for criminal prosecution of individuals in charge of decisions responsible for environmental destruction.

South of the Amazon, the Cerrado savanna is also facing extreme habitat degradation. The driver behind the destruction is cattle ranching, which according to a study published in *Plants, People, Planet* journal, is responsible for 80 percent of deforestation in the country. Another study by *Nature* states that half of the Cerrado has been cleared and converted to grazing land.

In June 2023, Brazil introduced an ecocide bill to its congress, and in November the bill was voted through the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee of the Deputies Chamber of the Brazilian Congress. However, according to Barros, the bill is still in its beginning stages.

“I’m glad the lawyers are working on this. There’s only so much the science can do,” Silva tells *EW*. “We need political scientists, we need lawyers, we need an interdisciplinary approach to look at this whole thing holistically.”

*ELAW is a global alliance of attorneys, scientists and other advocates created in 1991 by a group of public interest lawyers from 10 countries; they provide legal, scientific and organizational help to public and environmental defenders.*

*This year PIELC is holding its 42nd annual gathering, hosted by Land Air Water, a volunteer student group at the University of Oregon. This year’s theme, “Cultivating Community,” seeks to celebrate the achievements of diverse leaders and create a foundation for a more inclusive, community-based approach to tackling environmental challenges. Go to PIELC.com for the full schedule.*

*On Friday, March 1, at 10:45 am in room 241 at the UO Law School, Paulo Celso and other Indigenous Brazilian attorneys will discuss the work protecting sacred lands and defending human rights. On Saturday at 8:30 am, Nadia Barros leads the “Moving through Ecologies of the Global South” workshop in room 242 in the UO Law School. This workshop focuses on harmonic coexistence and the group will exercise this concept through poems, theater games and body movement exercises.*

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# what's happening

## THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 29

### ART/CRAFT

Paint & Sip — Monet Lily Pond, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$45.

### COMEDY

Quackenbush d'Improv: Improv Comedy Show, 9pm, Old Nick's Pub, 211 Washington St. FREE.

### DANCE

CINDERELLA: The Rock Opera, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$22-76.

### FILM

2001: A Space Odyssey, 1pm, 4:15pm & 7:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$8-11.

### FOOD/DRINK

Handel's Leap Day Cones, noon-10pm, Handel's Home-made Ice Cream, 550 Pearl St., Unit 110. \$2.29 small cones & dishes.

Thursday Tasting: 2 Towns Ciderhouse, 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE samples.

### GATHERINGS

Flourish Networking Eugene, 1-2:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. \$30 per month.

Leap for the Long Tom, 6-8pm, The Long Tom Grange, 25823 Ferguson Rd., Junction City. Reg. at LongTom.org/Leap.

Queer, Trans & Disability Group, 6-7pm, Email Info@TransponderCommunity for link. FREE.

Codependents Anonymous (CoDA) Meeting, 7-8pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Wellsprings Friends School, 3590 W. 18th Ave. FREE.

Recovering Couples, 7-8:15pm, Online at Recovering-Couples.org. FREE.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Preschool Storytime, 10:15-10:45am today & Thu., Mar. 7, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Make an Art Book, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

February Write Club for Grown Ups: How to Write Humor, 6-8pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. \$69.

Low-to-No-Cost Heating & Cooling, 7-8:30pm, Corvalis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis. FREE.

### MUSIC

The Jazz Ambassadors, 5pm, Jazzy Ladies Cafe & Club, 560 Oak St. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Ministry & Gary Numan, synth-pop-dystopian electronic-rock, 6pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. \$45-60.

Timothy Patrick, acoustic-variety-humor, 6pm, Driftwood Shores, 88416 1st Ave., Florence. \$20.

The Elena Leona Project, funk, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

The Joanne Broh Trio, blues-R&B-funk, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

Eugene Hard Bop Collective w/ Dave Bender, Scott Mitchell, Shane Allen, Christopher Greiner & Paul Slater, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Ganja Marines, Richardson Brothers Trio & Hearing Loss, reggae-soul-jazz, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

Funk Jam!, 9pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St. N/C.

Smokey Mirror, Creep Creep Janga, Slow Goat & Milton, rock, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$10-12.

### NIGHTLIFE

Beginners Board Game Night, 5pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Funagain Games Game Parlor, 2711 Oak St. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Falling Sky Brewpub, 1334 Oak Alley. \$5.

Trivia Night w/ Brett, 6:30pm today & Thu., Mar.

7, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Forest, 7pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke Thursdays, 7:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

### OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Ninkasi Run Club, 5:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Women's Basketball: Oregon vs. California Golden Bears, 7pm, Matthew Knight Arena. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

### THEATER

PYGMALION, 6:30-8:30pm today & Thu., Mar. 7, Sheldon Oaks Retirement, 2525 Cal Young Rd. FREE.

Haunting at the Overlook Hotel, 9:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.

## FRIDAY

MARCH 1

### ART/CRAFT

First Free Friday at the Museum, 10am-5pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE.

Establishing a Sketchbook Practice Class, 1-4pm, Oregon Art Supply, 1020 Pearl St. \$120.

Artist Talk by Jan Lintz on her Abstract Oil & Coldwax Paintings, 5:30-7:30pm, Oregon Art Supply, 1020 Pearl St. FREE.

First Friday ArtWalk, 5:30-8pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Zone 4 All Opening Reception, 5:30pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 East 11th Avenue.

### COMEDY

All Ducked Up: Open Mic, 5pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. FREE.

Eugene Comedy Crescendo, 8pm, 255 Madison St. \$15.

### DANCE

CINDERELLA: The Rock Opera, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$22-76.

Looking for a fun(ny) night out? This weekend into next week there are comedy shows all around town. Tonight, Feb. 29, **Quackenbush d'Improv** comedy troupe (pictured) will perform two or more sets of improvised scenes at Old Nick's Pub. The audience has the power to suggest characters, plots and jokes. Then on Friday, the folks of **Eugene Comedy Crescendo** make their way to 255 Madison for a stand-up performance. Grab some wine from the bar, sit back and relax while James Blame hosts, Adam Tiller headlines and more comics take the stage. Saturday brings mystery with **Don't Tell Comedy** at a secret location.

Once your tickets are purchased, the location will be revealed on the day of the event. The mystery doesn't end there — the four to seven comics are only unveiled once they reach the stage. Take a few days off from laughing at or with comedians, until Wednesday with **Up Next Comedy** Show at Cowfish. With Lexis Shardé as the host, four comedians lined up and a special appearance, the fun doesn't stop. Grab your liquid confidence, in whatever form that takes, and hit the stage for open mic, or find your groove when DJ Usity spins your favorite tracks. Last, but not least, Cowfish hosts **Diary of an Ex Ho** Thursday, March 7. This sex-positive comedy show will not only spread laughter, it will also spread empowerment. Take some time away from being serious and immerse yourself in Eugene's comedy scene.

**Quackenbush d'Improv** is 9 pm Feb. 29 at Old Nick's Pub, 211 Washington St., FREE. **Eugene Comedy Crescendo** performs 8 pm March 1 at 255 Madison St. Tickets are \$15 at 255Madison.com. **Don't Tell Comedy** is 7:30 pm March 2. The location is revealed the day of the show with purchase of tickets. Tickets are \$25 at Don'tTellComedy.com. **Up Next Comedy Show** is 8:30 pm March 6 at Cowfish, 62 W. Broadway. Tickets are \$5 at LexysComedyClub.com. **Diary of an Ex Ho** is 8 pm March 7 at Cowfish. Tickets are \$20 at Eventbrite.com. — Brianna Murschel

Photo by Ginelle Vandebausch

### FOOD/DRINK

Whiteaker Walking Food Tour, 1-4pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. \$90.

### GATHERINGS

Yawn Patrol's Toastmasters Club, 6:15-7:45am, Mahonia Bldg., 120 Shelton McMurphy Blvd. FREE.

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Meeting, 10-11:30am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd. FREE.

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. FREE.

Black History Exhibit Celebration, 4:30pm, Eugene Atrium Bldg., 99 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Health By Chocolate w/ Yaakov Levine, FNTP, 2-3pm, Natural Grocers, 201 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Faculty Panel: AI & the Humanities, 3pm, Knight Library Browsing Rm., 1501 Kincaid St. Reg. at OHC. UOregon.edu.

### MUSIC

Inner Limits, blues-rock, 6pm, Saginaw Vineyard, 80247 Delight Valley School Rd., Cottage Grove. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Cumbia, Latin-Merengue, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Carl Woideck Quintet w/ Roger Woods, Torrey Newhart, Robert Lassila & Ken Mastrogiovanni, soul-jazz-bossa-blues, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Oregon Wind Ensemble presents: Water, 7:30pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. UO student FREE w/ ID. Gen. Adm. \$10.

She's Speaking Live, R&B-funk-blues-rock-American, 7:30pm, Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Rd. \$25-28.

De Solution Band w/ Chele & the Circle D'Light, Zimbabwean-reggae, 8pm, Swallowtail Spirits, 111 Main St., Spfd. \$10.

### GATHERINGS

Northeast Neighborhood Association Annual Food Drive, 9:30am, Harvest Community Church, 2700 Gilham Rd.

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

March Celebration, 10am, Mark Christian Methodist

Episcopal Church, 1167 Sam Reynolds St. FREE.

Trans & Allies Social Hour, 10am-noon, Theo's Coffee House, 199 W. 8th Ave., #1. FREE.

UO Surplus Public Sale, 11:30am-1:30pm, Romania Bldg., 2020 Franklin Blvd.

### HEALTH

Occupy Medical Services, 9-11am, St. Vincent de Paul Service Ctr., 450 Hwy. 99. FREE.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, 11-11:30am & 11:45am-12:15pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### LITERARY ARTS

Bible as Literature: Three Short Books, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-135.

### MUSIC

Cross Current, folk, 6pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Music w/ Mike Reeves, pop-rock-blues, 6pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. N/C.

The Jazz Symbiosis Trio & Friends, 6pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. N/C.

Truffle Jam, jukebox, 7pm, Swallowtail Spirits, 111 Main St., Spfd. \$5.

Max Hayner Trio w/ Luca Alemano & Rick Montalbano, Afro-Cuban jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$25.

Sin Documentos, '90s rock, 7:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Tommy Castro & The Painkillers, soul-blues-rock, 8pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$30-35.

Guilty Pleasures XII, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. SOLD OUT.

Myka 9 + Awol One, rap-hip-hop, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$15.

# JJL&M

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## calendar

As Women's History Month approaches, female voices and artistry are uplifted with ***She's Speaking Live*** kicking off the month at Unity of the Valley with eight Oregonian female songwriters. The lineup comprises Arietta Ward, Bre Gregg, Kristen Grainger, LaRhonda Steele, Beth Wood, Liz Chibucos, Naomi LaViolette and Lisa Mann (pictured). "We have this killer and kick-ass band that plays with us," says Grainger, co-founder of *She's Speaking*. The artists come from all sorts of backgrounds and genres. With R&B, funk, blues, rock, Americana, gospel, folk, pop and more, there's music for everyone to enjoy from covers of popular artists such as Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Sheryl Crow to original songs. When COVID-19 shut down the world in 2020, Gregg, Grainger and Wood came up with an idea to honor Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg when she passed. "She had

this amazing life and amazing career and has done wonderful things for all people," Grainger says, "but particularly in advocating for women through the legal system." The pandemic put a hold on people gathering, so the three women launched a YouTube channel on International Women's Day in March 2021 where they had more than 60 female songwriters write and record a song about an inspirational woman. *She's Speaking Live* debuted in late 2021 at Alberta Rose Theatre in Portland. For Friday's show, "expect an invigorating and uplifting, fun show," Grainger says. "It's got a great deal of power, and yet it's super enjoyable and accessible."

*She's Speaking Live* is 7:30 pm March 1 at Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Rd. Tickets are \$25 in advance at [ShesSpeakingSongs.com](http://ShesSpeakingSongs.com) and \$28 at the door. The YouTube channel is *ShesSpeakingSongs*. — Brianna Murschel



Photo by Norm Eder

Soul Vibrator & IANTO, funk-rock, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$8-10.

### NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Men's Basketball: Oregon at Arizona, 11am. More info at [GoDucks.com](http://GoDucks.com).

College Women's Basketball: Oregon vs. Stanford, 2pm, Matthew Knight Arena. Tickets at [GoDucks.com](http://GoDucks.com).

### SPIRITUAL

Full-day Meditation, 10am-4pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St. FREE.

### THEATER

A Year w/ Frog & Toad, 2pm & 7pm, The Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. \$10-15.

PYGMALION, 6:30-8:30pm, Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church, 532 C St., Spfd. FREE.

**Talk Radio**, 7:30pm, The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$22.

## SUNDAY

MARCH 3

### ART/CRAFT

Club Mud Ceramics Spring Sale & Fundraiser, 10am-4pm, Maude Kerns Art Ctr., 1910 E. 15th Ave.

Paint & Taste — Van Gogh Blossoms, 3-5pm, Thinking Tree Spirits, 88 Jackson St. \$45.

Paint & Pints — Three Sisters, 4-6pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. \$50.

### COMEDY

Come On In Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Barn Light Bar, 924 Willamette. FREE.

### DANCE

CINDERELLA: The Rock Opera, 2:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$32-76.

### FILM

Vanya, 1:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19.

### GATHERINGS

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center, 390 Vernal St. FREE.

Douglas Fir Tree Sale, noon, Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Rd. \$10 for each tree pot.

Emerald Valley Ctr. for Spiritual Living, LGBTQ friendly, 4-5:30pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. Don.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Family Fun w/ LEGO, 1-5pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Nutrition & Lifestyle Medicine Classes, 2-4pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. FREE.

Craig Hogan & Beyond The Sky, 3pm, Yachats Commons, 441 Hwy. 101 N., Yachats. \$5 sug. don.

### LITERARY ARTS

On This Land — Winter Writers Reading w/ McKenzie River Trust, 3-5pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. FREE.

### MARKETS

Native American Arts & Crafts Market, 10am, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

### MUSIC

Christopher Keady, organ recital, 3pm, First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. \$10 sug. don.

Classical on Broadway, 3pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Jazz at the Ciderhouse, 4pm, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. N.C.

microphilharmonic: American Masters, 4pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$12.50-39.

EastSide Sunday Jam, 5pm, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd. N.C.

Le Consort, Baroque music, 7pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. \$5-50.

Small Leaks Sink Ships, Me Like Bees, Small Million & Ali Watson, indie-prog, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette St. \$10-15.

SunSquabi, electronic, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$20.

### NIGHTLIFE

RWMcCabe Studios: Open Mic, 4pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Open Mic, 6pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Karaoke Sundays, 7:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. Eugene Oregon. FREE.

### RECREATION

Yoga + Beer, 10:30-11:30am, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. \$25.

### SPIRITUAL

Prayer, Meditation & Fasting, 10-11:30am, Bahai Ctr., 1458 Alder St. FREE.

Spiritual Meeting, 11am-1pm, Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St. FREE.

Sound Bath w/ Solala Towler, 7-8:30pm, Abode of the Eternal Dao, 1991 Garfield St. \$25.

### THEATER

A Year w/ Frog & Toad, 2pm, The Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. \$10-15.

**Talk Radio**, 2pm, The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$22.

PYGMALION, 6:30-8:30pm, Ebbert Memorial United

## LEAP DAY

**FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

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Methodist Church, 532 C St., Spfd. FREE.

## MONDAY

MARCH 4

### COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic w/ Seth Milstein, 8pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

### FILM

*Israelism*, 7pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

The Secret World of YOU: Comics for Telling Your Story w/ Jen Hernandez, 4-6pm, Ophelia's Place, 1577 Pearl St., Ste. 100. FREE.

### MUSIC

First Monday Big Band Night directed by Steve Owen, 7pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$5 stu., \$15 gen. adm.

microphilharmonic: American Masters, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$12.50-39.

Shawn Phillips, singer-songwriter, 7:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$29.50-32.

Bolero, Under The Clothesline & Wood, rock, 10pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$8-10.

### NIGHTLIFE

Beats & Boards, 6:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. \$3.

Open Mic, 6:30pm, Houndsstooh Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Trivia Mondays, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

### SPIRITUAL

Mindful Integration & Breathwork w/ PSILO Temple, 7-9pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pearl St. FREE.

### TEENS

Study Help, 4-6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

## TUESDAY

MARCH 5

### ART/CRAFT

Studio 7 Art Gallery: *Winter Show*, 11am-4pm, Studio 7 Art Gallery, 87230 Central Rd.

Knit & Crochet Circle, 6-7pm, Sheldon Branch

Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

### CIVICS

Human Rights Commission — Homelessness & Poverty Work Group, 5:30-7:30pm. Link online at Eugene-OR.gov.

### FILM

*Vanya*, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Storytime, 10:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Toddler Storytime, 11am & 11:45am, Downtown Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Be Writing, 9:15-11:45am, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. \$3.

Living w/ Memory Loss Class, 10am-noon, Waterford Grand, 600 Waterford Way. \$100.

Notarizing by Appointment, 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Releasing w/ Writing, 11:30am-12:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$5-15.

Sips of Happiness Mindfulness, 1-2pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$15.

Tech Help, 2-3pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Tweens: OBOB Trivia, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Lasting Happiness From Within, 6-7:30pm, Mahonia Bldg., 120 Shelton McMurphy Blvd. \$10.

Queer Choir Collective: Drop-In Song Circle, 6-7pm, Heartwise, 1840 Willamette. FREE.

### LITERARY ARTS

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm, Email Info@TransponderCommunity for link. FREE.

### MUSIC

Brown Stallion Invitational Jam, rock-funk-soul-country, 7pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. N/C.

Marshall Tucker Band w/ Jefferson Starship, rock, 7pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. N/C.

Gerry O'Connor & Dan Penzien, fiddle, 7:30pm, House Concert, 70 E. Howard Ave. \$20.

Coco Montoya, blues-rock, 8pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$28-40.

### NIGHTLIFE

Eugene Chess Club, 6pm, Bill & Tim's Barbecue & Tap House, 201 E. 13th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Trivia Night, 7pm, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Tuesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. FREE.

### RECREATION

Bhakti Nidra: Guided Meditation Infused w/ Live Music, 7-8:15pm, Eugene Yoga South, 3575 Donald St., #180. \$25.

### SOCIAL DANCE

Salsa Dancing, 7pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive Street. \$5.

### TEENS

*Tron: Legacy* Movie Screening, 5pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### THEATER

Meow Meow — Sequins & Satire, Divas & Disruptors: The Wild Women of the Weimar Republic, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$38.50.

## WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6

### CIVICS

4J Regular School Board Meeting, 7pm, 4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe St. FREE.

### COMEDY

Up Next Comedy Show, 8:30pm, Cowfish, 62 W. Broadway. \$5.

### GATHERINGS

Prepare-A-Palooza, 10am-4pm, Venue 252, 252 Lawrence St. FREE.

Academy of Arts & Academics High School Information Night, 4:30-5:30pm, A3, 615 Main St., Spfd.

Climate Action Party, 5:30-7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. Email LaneCounty.OR@CitizensClimateLobby.org for more info.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Learn to Play Cribbage, 4-5:30pm, Shelton McMur-

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## calendar

phey Johnson House, 303 Willamette. FREE.

Talk Time: Conversational English, 4:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Democracy: The Challenges Ahead & Rep. Peter DeFazio, 5-7pm, Ford Alumni Ctr., 1720 E. 13th Ave. FREE.

Night at the Museum, 5:30-7pm, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Ln. FREE.

### MUSIC

Muse, Volume 2: A Celebration Of Women, 11:30am-11pm thru Mar. 10, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Dianella, violinist-rock vocalist, 5pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Maya Vagner, singer-songwriter, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Antonio Soltero & Jam Session Hosted by Paul

Krueger, 7pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$10.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 7pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. N/C.

Oregon Percussion Ensemble, 7:30pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. UO Stu. FREE w/ ID, \$10 gen. adm.

Lightnin' Luke, King Strang & Van Tastik, string band, 8pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$12-16.

Rica Wright, vocalist, 8pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

### NIGHTLIFE

Open mic, 5pm, Mulligan's Pub, 2841 Willamette. FREE.

1st Wednesday Cribbage, 6:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE.

Bingo Wednesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Shelbyville Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. FREE.

### TEENS

Make Polymer Clay Flash-drives, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

## THURSDAY

### MARCH 7

#### ART/CRAFT

Julian Watts: Exploring the Intersection of Art, Craft & Design Through Contemporary Woodcarving, 4pm, UO Lawrence Hall, Rm. 115. FREE.

#### COMEDY

Jim Breuer: The Survival w/ Laughter Tour, 7pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. \$42.50.

Diary of an Ex Ho, 8pm, Cowfish, 62 W. Broadway. \$20.

### FILM

Cinema Nights, 6-8:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

### FOOD/DRINK

Gigantic Can Release Party, 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

### GATHERINGS

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 1-2:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

Sustainability Town Hall, 5-9pm, CH2M HILL Alumni Ctr., OSU, 725 SW. 26th St., Corvallis. FREE.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Check It Out: Fairy Tales, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

(B.O.G.S.) Speaker Series w/ Bill Sullivan — Oregon Hikes, 9-11am, Willamalane

Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Jobs & Universities: A Tale of Two Futures, 4pm, Knight Library Browsing Rm., 1501 Kincaid St. FREE.

The Big Read Book Discussion: Reading Like a Writer Edition w/ Mia Bowman, 6-8pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. FREE.

### MUSIC

Matti Joy, folk, 5pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Dianella, violinist-rock vocalist, 6:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Paul Safar & The Tsunami Baby Grand w/ Percy Franklin & Sandy Holder, multi-instrumentalists, 6:30pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. Don.

David Helfand & The Majestic Ensemble, First Thursday Acoustic Americana Series, 7:30pm, The Jazz

Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Leahy, rock-country-classical music, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$21-56.

Laura Ivancie, singer-songwriter, 8pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

### OUTDOORS

The SoCal Desert Ramble, 6:30-8pm, Bicycle Way of Life, 556 Charnelton St. More info at EugeneGears.org.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Men's Basketball: Oregon vs. Colorado, 6pm, Matthew Knight Arena. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

### TEENS

Play VR, 5-7pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### THEATER

*Talk Radio*, 7:30pm, The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. \$22.

## theater

# Something to Talk About

FOUR DECADES AFTER ITS FIRST PERFORMANCE, 'TALK RADIO' REMAINS RELEVANT

By Dorothy Velasco

**T**alk Radio, now playing at The Very Little Theatre's Stage Left, offers undeniable proof that The VLT, one of the oldest community theaters on the West Coast, can be every bit as good as professional theaters throughout the country. Any doubts you might have will be erased by this first-rate production.

Running a brisk 100 minutes without intermission, the show by Eric Bogosian, based on a concept by Bogosian and Portland artist Tad Savinar, is riveting. The play was first produced in the 1980s in Portland and then at the Public Theatre in New York, with Bogosian in the lead role. A hit right from the start, it was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and in 1988 a film version directed by Oliver Stone appeared.

*Talk Radio* tells the twisted tale of Barry Champlain, a complex shock jock who hosts a late-night call-in show based in Cleveland, Ohio. His language, as much as is allowed on the radio of that era, is generally rude and quarrelsome. Although a few gentle souls admire him, he needs a strong defense against the majority of his callers, who are aggressive and obnoxious. One caller goads him about his elegant patronym, insisting it's a coverup for a Jewish name.

During his hours on the air, Barry, in a tour-de-force performance by Scott Machado, takes a string of calls passed to him by his faithful assistant Stu (David Mort). If the calls don't work out the way he wants, he screams at Stu for failing him. He's almost as disagreeable with Linda (Jennifer Appleby), a young coworker who tries to smooth things for him and keeps him supplied with whiskey.

The calls are crucial because he is being judged. If the show is brilliant, it will go national the following Monday.

As directed by Paul Rhoden, *Talk Radio* is hilarious, almost falling-out-of-your-chair funny. But Barry, in spite of his intelligence, seems tragic at times. He clearly hates himself as much as he hates most of his callers. In the program notes, Rhoden, a talented actor, reveals that



BARRY CHAMPLAIN (SCOTT MACHADO) Photo by LifeSlice Photography

this is the first play he has ever directed. That's hard to believe, but he credits his wife Darlene, an experienced director, for keeping him on task. He has certainly allowed Machado to successfully explore Barry's dark depths, to the point of eventually unraveling.

And the callers, as disgusting as they might be, are mostly pitiful. One of them, however, a young man named Kent (Noah Davis), is a jokester who unexpectedly manages to get himself invited to the studio, where Barry sets him up with a microphone. Kent's costume is covered in baubles and pins, and his hair is in stiff spikes that make it hard to put on his headphones. He's a riot.

So are the other characters and the unseen callers, played by Dave Smith, Paul Dunckel, Damon Noyes, Rene Ragan, Vanessa Norman, Derek Rees, Jonas Israel, Emily Faulconer and Tim Rogers.

Set design is by Abby Dunn, costumes by Paula Tendick and Amy Weinkauf, and lighting by Tim Rogers.

Now, in 2024, the play seems only minimally dated. Paranoia is still rampant throughout the country, striking from right and left. Barry would tell us we're living in a very scary time.

*Talk Radio* is playing at The Very Little Theatre's Stage Left through March 10; times and tickets through [TheVLT.com](http://TheVLT.com) or 541-344-7751.

# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Aries filmmaker Akira Kurosawa was one of the greats. In his 30 films, he crafted a reputation as a masterful storyteller. A key moment in his development as an emotionally intelligent artist came when he was 13 years old. His older brother Heigo took him to view the aftermath of the Great Kantō earthquake. Akira wanted to avert his gaze from the devastation, but Heigo compelled him to look. Why? He wished for Akira to learn to deal with fear by facing it directly. I think you Aries people are more skilled at this challenging exercise than all the other signs. I hope you will call on it with aplomb in the coming weeks. You may be amazed at the courage it arouses in you.

**TAURUS** (APRIL 20-MAY 20): "When a mountain doesn't listen, say a prayer to the sea," said Taurus painter Cy Twombly. "If God doesn't respond, direct your entreaties to Goddess," I tell my Taurus friend Audrey. "If your mind doesn't provide you with useful solutions, make an appeal to your heart instead," my Taurus mentor advises me. This counsel should be useful for you in the coming weeks, Taurus. It's time to be diligent, relentless, ingenious and indefatigable in going after what you want. Keep asking until you find a source that will provide it.

**GEMINI** (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Gemini philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson offered advice that's perfect for you right now. He said, "Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us, or we find it not." Here's what I will add. First, you very much need to commune with extra doses of beauty in the coming weeks. Doing so will expedite your healing and further your education — two activities that are especially important. Second, one way to accomplish your assignment is to put yourself in the presence of all the beautiful people, places and things you can find. Third, be imaginative as you cultivate beauty within yourself. How? That's your homework.

**CANCER** (JUNE 21-JULY 22): I bet that sometime soon, you will dream of flying through the sky on a magic carpet. In fact, this may be a recurring dream for you in the coming months. By June, you may have soared along on a floating rug over 10 times. Why? What's this all about? I suspect it's one aspect of a project that life is encouraging you to undertake. It's an invitation to indulge in more flights of the imagination; to open your soul to mysterious potencies; to give your fantasy life permission to be wilder and freer. You know that old platitude "shit happens"? You're ready to experiment with a variation on that: "Magic happens."

**LEO** (JULY 23-AUG. 22): On Feb. 22, ancient Romans celebrated the holiday of Caristia. It was a time for reconciliation. People strove to heal estrangements and settle long standing disagreements. Apologies were offered, and truces were negotiated. In alignment with current astrological omens, Leo, I recommend you revive this tradition. Now is an excellent time to embark on a crusade to unify, harmonize, restore, mend and assuage. I dare you to put a higher priority on love than on ego!

**VIRGO** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): My poet friend Jafna likes to say that only two types of love are available to us: too little and too much. We are either deprived of the precise amount and quality of the love we want, or else we have to deal with an excess of love that doesn't match the kind we want. But I predict that this will at most be a mild problem for you in the coming weeks — and perhaps not a problem at all. You will have a knack for giving and receiving just the right amount of love, neither too little nor too much. And the love flowing toward you and from you will be gracefully appropriate.

**LIBRA** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): If the devil card comes up for me in a divinatory Tarot reading, I don't get worried or scared that something bad might happen. On the contrary, I interpret it favorably. It means that an interesting problem or riddle has arrived or will soon arrive in my life — and that this twist can potentially make me wiser, kinder and wilder. The appearance of the devil card suggests that I need to be challenged so as to grow a new capacity or understanding. It's a good omen, telling me that life is conspiring to give me what I need to outgrow my limitations and ignorance. Now apply these principles, Libra, as you respond to the devil card I just drew for you.

**SCORPIO** (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): A taproot is a thick, central, and primary root from which a plant's many roots branch out laterally. Typically, a taproot grows downward and is pretty straight. It may extend to a depth greater than the height of the plant sprouting above ground. Now let's imagine that we humans have metaphorical taproots. They connect us with our sources of inner nourishment. They are lifelines to secret or hidden treasures we may be only partly conscious of. Let's further imagine that in the coming months, Scorpio, your taproot will flourish and spread deeper to draw in new nutrients. Got all that? Now, I invite you to infuse this beautiful vision with an outpouring of love for yourself and for the wondrous vitality you will be absorbing.

**SAGITTARIUS** (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Behavioral ecologist Professor Dan Charbonneau has observed the habits of ants, bees and other social insects. He says that a lot of the time, many of them just lounge around doing nothing. In fact, most animals do the same. The creatures of the natural world are just not very busy. Psychologist Dr. Sandi Mann urges us to learn from their lassitude. "We've created a society where we fear boredom, and we're afraid of doing nothing," she says. But that addiction to frenzy may limit our inclination to daydream, which in turn inhibits our creativity. I bring these facts to your attention, Sagittarius, because I suspect you're in a phase when lolling around doing nothing much will be extra healthy for you. Liberate and nurture your daydreams, please!

**CAPRICORN** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): "Education is an admirable thing," wrote Oscar Wilde, "but it is well to remember that nothing worth knowing can be taught." As I ponder your future in the coming weeks, I vociferously disagree with him. I am sure you can learn many things worth knowing from teachers of all kinds. It's true that some of the lessons may be accidental or unofficial — and not delivered by traditional teachers. But that won't diminish their value. I invite you to act as if you will in effect be enrolled in school 24/7 until the equinox.

**AQUARIUS** (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): The planets Mars and Venus are both cruising through Aquarius. Do they signify that synchronicities will weave magic into your destiny? Yes! Here are a few possibilities I foresee: 1. smoldering flirtations that finally ignite; 2. arguments assuaged by love-making; 3. mix-ups about the interplay between love and lust or else wonderful synergies between love and lust; 4. lots of labyrinthine love talk, romantic sparring, and intricate exchange about the nature of desire; 5. adventures in the sexual frontiers; 6. opportunities to cultivate interesting new varieties of intimacy.

**PISCES** (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Unlike the Pope's decrees, my proclamations are not infallible. As opposed to Nostradamus and many modern soothsayers, I never imagine I have the power to definitely decipher what's ahead. One of my main mottoes is "The future is undecided. Our destinies are always mutable." Please keep these caveats in mind whenever you commune with my horoscopes. Furthermore, consider adopting my approach as you navigate through the world — especially in the coming weeks, when your course will be extra responsive to your creative acts of willpower. Decide right now what you want the next chapter of your life story to be about. You can make it what you want.

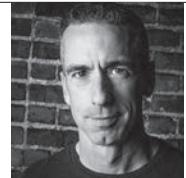
*Homework: What helpful tip would you like to deliver to the person you will be a year from now?*

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# SAVAGE LOVE

BY DAN SAVAGE



## 1. Best advice on dating without resorting to apps?

Go places, do shit, meet people, fuck 'em.

## 2. I'm about to visit a gay nudist resort for the first time (although I've been to heterosexual nudist resorts in the past). I've been bi all my life and am now in my 70s. What should I expect?

Dick if you're lucky, crabs if you're not.

## 3. I'm a heterosexual woman and I don't like to kiss a guy after he's gone down on me. Is there something wrong with me? Do most women not mind?

There are places on our own bodies we can't reach with our tongues. For some of us, making out with someone who just went down on us — someone who just ate our pussy or our ass or sucked our dick — presents us with an opportunity to taste those parts of bodies we would never get to taste otherwise. But opportunity ≠ obligation. If you don't want to taste your own pussy or your own ass or your own cock, you don't have to. Sending someone off to wash their face in the middle of sex would indeed be weird, but wiping someone's face with the t-shirt you were wearing before you started fucking around can be kinda hot.

## 4. Once you get polyamory into everyday use, would you please craft a single gender-neutral word that could replace "sir" and "ma'am"? I'm non-binary and every customer service interaction makes me bristle because the employee — who is just being polite — always misgenders me. Can we have one word for all people instead of trying to discern gender in every interaction?

My commie friends think comrade would work: "Your call is very important to us, comrade! Please remain on the line, comrade! Someone will be with you shortly, comrade!" But I think "homo" is a stronger choice. Not "homo" short for homosexual, but "homo" short for homo sapiens: "Welcome to Chili's, homo. I'll be your server, homo. What would you like, homo?"

## 5. I just come out as gay. I've always wanted an exclusive relationship, but I don't think most gay guys are into that. I have accepted that pretty much any future boyfriend will either cheat on me or I will have to agree to an open relationship at some point because that's what all gay couples do. I'm just looking for advice.

There are gay men out there who want exclusive relationships and you should seek those men out. But in my experience — ahem — it's almost always the person who insists on monogamy who cheats first. Not always, but almost always. So, in addition to wondering how you'll react if and/or when your future boyfriend cheats or wants to open the relationship, spend some time thinking through how you'll handle things if and/or when you wanna open the relationship.

## 6. My partner and I used to be hot and heavy, but now we're in a sexless phase, and I'd like to get back to how we used to be. Any tips?

This isn't a problem you can solve unless your partner wants to solve it. So, talk to your partner, tell them you miss the great sex you used to have together, and ask them if they wanna work on reconnecting. Now, there's a chance your partner won't wanna solve this problem — they might not regard being sexless as a problem — but they'll tell you they wanna work on it because that's what you wanna hear. Now, sometimes a person tells their partner what they wanna hear because they don't wanna hurt their feelings or because they're not ready to have a conversation about the kind of reasonable accommodations that make sexless relationships work, e.g., permission to discreetly get sexual needs met elsewhere.

## 7. On the one hand, my partner says he loves me, and that should make me feel secure. On the other hand, he's resistant to phone calls. He has a zillion reasons why he doesn't like talking on the phone, but they don't add up. How do I get him to like doing phone calls? And phone sex?

I have the same problem with my boyfriend — only it's texting he hates, not phone calls. If anyone out there has managed to convert a texter into a caller or vice-versa, drop your advice in the comments, please.

## 8. Best places to find straight feminist sex stories to get me revved up?

Have you checked out Dipsea? They advertise on the Lovecast — full disclosure — but they have tons of great feminist erotica and other hot content. And while there's no shortage of porn and erotica out there for men, gay and otherwise, there's nothing like Dipsea for us and I'm actually kind of jealous.

## 9. What do you do when your boyfriend's dick often smells/tastes like urine and that is not a turn-on for you?

Here's what you do: You tell your boyfriend his dick stinks and that he's gonna need to do a better job keeping it clean if he wants you to keep putting it in your mouth. If Paris is worth a mass, as the King of France once said, a blowjob is worth a bath.

## 10. Is hiring a surrogate to have a baby unethical? I have two kids and can't physically carry again.

The Pope thinks surrogacy is unethical — so whatever you decide to do, don't hire that elderly celibate to carry your next baby for you.

## 11. Why don't we have better words to describe the complexity of our relationships?

I did my part with monogamish and tolyamorous... and the anime avatar kids on Tumblr came up demisexual and pansexual and skoliosexual and androphilic and gynephilic and polyamory and polyfidelity and heteronormativity and homonormativity and reproductivity and on and on. There are so many words to describe our relationships these days — including our relationships with ourselves — that I can barely keep up. But before you assume some relationship type or dynamic doesn't already have a name, spend a little time scrolling through Ace Dad's Instagram feed — because, man, they have a word for everything.

## 12. Is there a word for the man who you are the mistress of?

OK, I spent an hour scrolling through Ace Dad's Instagram feed and I didn't find the word you're looking for. For all I know the word is out there somewhere — a word for a married male affair partner — but I wasn't able to find it. If someone else wants to take a look and/or make a suggestion, the comment thread is open.

## 13. New to BDSM play. How best to recover from the physical aftereffects?

When kinksters talk about "aftercare," they're usually referring to emotional aftercare — some cuddles, some reassurance. But if you're into physically challenging BDSM (impact play, TT, CBT, punishing bondage), the body needs aftercare too: some ibuprofen, a hot bath, a nice massage.

## 14. How do I convince my husband to allow my BF to sleep with us in our bedroom?

Your husband is fine with you having a boyfriend but wants your bedroom to remain — at least for now — sacred to you as couple. I don't think that's an unreasonable request on his part. A boyfriend is a big ask, our bedroom is just for us is a small one.

## 15. Anal sex with a condom and then oral sex with the condom off right after — is that safe?

It's safer than a salad bar.

Got problems? Yes, you do. Send your question to [mailbox@savage.love](mailto:mailbox@savage.love)! Podcasts, columns and more at [Savage.Love](http://Savage.Love).

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